

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a department store supply chain utilizing a network,  
2 comprising:  
3 a) receiving data from a plurality of department store outlets of a department store  
4 supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of department store  
5 products by the department store outlets;  
6 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering department  
7 store products from a department store distributor of the department store supply  
8 chain;  
9 c) transmitting the data to the department store distributor of the department store  
10 supply chain utilizing the network;  
11 d) transmitting the data to a department store supplier of the department store supply  
12 chain utilizing the network; and  
13 e) forecasting activity in the department store supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of  
2 department store distributors and department store suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the department  
2 store outlets, the department store distributor, the department store supplier via a  
3 network-based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the department store  
2 distributor and the department store supplier only after verification of an identity  
3 thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the department store outlets, the department store  
2 distributor, and the department store supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

1 7. A system for managing a department store supply chain utilizing a network,  
2 comprising:

3 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of department store outlets of a  
4 department store supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of  
5 department store by the department store outlets;

6 b) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering  
7 department store from a department store distributor of the department store  
8 supply chain;

9 c) logic for transmitting the data to the department store distributor of the  
10 department store supply chain utilizing the network;

11 d) logic for transmitting the data to a department store supplier of the department  
12 store supply chain utilizing the network; and

13 e) logic for forecasting activity in the department store supply chain utilizing the  
14 data.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of  
2 department store distributors and department store suppliers.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the data is made accessible to the department  
2 store outlets, the department store distributor, the department store supplier via a  
3 network-based interface.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the data is accessible to the department store  
2 distributor and the department store supplier only after verification of an identity  
3 thereof.

1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the department store outlets, the department store  
2 distributor, and the department store supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

1 13. A computer program product for managing a department store supply chain  
2 utilizing a network, comprising:

3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of department store outlets of a  
4 department store supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of  
5 department store by the department store outlets;

6 b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for  
7 ordering department store from a department store distributor of the department  
8 store supply chain;

9 c) computer code for transmitting the data to the department store distributor of the  
10 department store supply chain utilizing the network;

11 d) computer code for transmitting the data to a department store supplier of the  
12 department store supply chain utilizing the network; and

13 e) computer code for forecasting activity in the department store supply chain  
14 utilizing the data.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match  
2 each of a plurality of department store distributors and department store suppliers.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible  
2 to the department store outlets, the department store distributor, the department  
3 store supplier via a network-based interface.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the  
2 department store distributor and the department store supplier only after  
3 verification of an identity thereof.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the  
2 Internet.

- 1    18.    The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the department store outlets,
- 2        the department store distributor, and the department store supplier each forecast
- 3        utilizing the data.